Approaching international community on Fiji

550. DR. M.N. DAS:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made by Indian Government to secure release of the hostages in Fiji;

(b) whether Government have approached international community for their help in restoration of democracy in Fiji; and

(c) if so, the details of the response received from various countries and organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Government of India worked in close cooperation with the Commonwealth and countries like Australia, New Zealand, U.K. and others to secure the release of hostages and they were since released.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Commonwealth has suspended Fiji from its Councils. Australia and New Zealand have imposed several sanctions against Fiji. Several countries have called for the restoration of 1997 Constitution of Fiji.

Government's reaction on trade relations between US and China

551. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the controversial trade bill establishing normal trade relations between the US and China, which is awaiting endorsement of US Senate is now under threat;

(b) whether this is due to China's countinuing support to Pakistan to assist them to build long range missiles with nuclear war heads; and

(c) if so, what are the views of Government on this development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) the Bill on Permanent Normal Trade Relations between the US and China has been approved by the US House of Representatives. The Bill is awaiting the approval of the US Senate. Several Senators have said that there may be delay in passage of the Bill in the Senate because of reports that appeared in the US media on China's continuing missile-related co-operation with Pakistan.

(c) Government does not comment on an ongoing legislative process in another country. Government has continued to bring to the notice of the US Administration its own assessment of nuclear and missile proliferation in our neighbourhood, including the continuing co-operation between Pakistan and China.

Safety of properties of Indians in Fiji

552. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IRBAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the coup staged against the Fijian Government in the capital of Fiji in which the Prime Minister and other were held as hostage for days and weeks, property of Indians in Fiji was looted;

(b) if so, whether this resulted in exodus of ethnic Indians of Fiji; and

(c) the number of such Indian refugees who have so far run away leaving their hearts and homes in Fiji and how many have come to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some shops and other businesses belonging to ethnic Indians were looted in Suva on 19 May, 2000. Since then, there have been